

U.S.S. ORISKANY (CVA-34)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1963  
CVA34/5720  
017:MEW:dh  
Ser: 4675  
31 DEC 1964

From: Commanding Officer, USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations, Naval History Division (OP-09B9),  
Ship's Histories Section, Washington 25, D.C.

Subj: Annual addition to ORISKANY ship's history; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7 (Report Symbol OPNAV 5150-4)

Encl: (1) ORISKANY ship's history 1964  
(2) Four 8x10 SWG photographs of events aboard ORISKANY in 1964

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted herewith.

  
W. H. HOUSE

ORISKANY HISTORY  
1963

The new year, 1963, began with ORISKANY moored at North Island, San Diego.

On January 5, 1963 Commander O. L. Dauphin relieved Captain C. S. Brooks as Executive Officer of ORISKANY.

Two ORISKANY sailors, J. L. Lotz, SN, and J. H. Linn, FN, rescued two Coronado, California sisters, Andrea and Diane Laird, from the waters of San Diego harbor when the two girls capsized the small kayak in which they were riding on March 2, 1963. Lotz and Linn received letters of commendation from Vice Admiral Paul D. Stroop, Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, for the rescue March 5th.

On March 29th Captain Herman J. Trum relieved Captain Iarrobino as Commanding Officer of ORISKANY.

ORISKANY became the subject of a television documentary April 9 when television reporter/photographers from KCRA TV, Sacramento, California flew aboard to film life on an attack carrier.

On April 30, 1963 ORISKANY was named by Vice Admiral Paul D. Stroop, Commander Naval Air Force, Pacific Fleet, as having the best general mess under his command.

PLAT (Pilot/Landing Aid Television) System was added to ORISKANY May 7, 1963. PLAT essentially consists of three cameras, two center line cameras imbedded in the flight deck, one aft and one forward, with a third manned by a technician located six decks above the flight deck.

May 13, 1963 brought a new type of aircraft to ORISKANY when two UH-2A (Sea Sprite) jet powered rescue helicopters set down on the flight

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deck, replacing the HUP-2's previously used for "angel" duty at sea during flight operations.

ORISKANY participated in an operational readiness demonstration for President John F. Kennedy off the coast of Southern California on June 6, 1963. The President visited the ship at sea, received honors in flight deck ceremonies and viewed a demonstration of the Naval Tactical Data System. After departing ORISKANY, President Kennedy flew to USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) to spend the night. Among other ships participating in the demonstration were the NTDS equipped USS KING (DLG-10) and USS MAHAN (DLG-11).

June 22, 1963 ORISKANY was named by the Naval Subsistence Officer as "runner up" in the Fleet wide Ney Award competition. This was the first time a carrier had ever gone that far in the competition.

Commander Jonathan J. Crowder relieved Commander O. L. Dauphin as Executive Officer on June 17, 1963.

From July 15th through the 20th ORISKANY was the key unit in the U. S. First Fleet Exercise GOLF BALL off the California coast. Exercise GOLF BALL was a major fleet strike and anti-aircraft warfare exercise which involved 15 ships.

Also in July, Admiral George W. Anderson, Jr., Chief of Naval Operations, announced on the 19th that ORISKANY had won the Admiral Flatley Award for aviation safety in the attack carrier class for fiscal year 1963.

August 1, 1963 ORISKANY, now flagship for Rear Admiral Frederick L. Ashworth, Commander Carrier Division ONE, departed her homeport of San Diego for her sixth Far East cruise with Carrier Air Group SIXTEEN, commanded by Commander R. B. Baldwin, embarked. CVG-16 was composed of

VF-161, VF-162, VFP-63, Detachment GOLF, VA-162, VA-163, VA-164, VA-165, VAH-4, Detachment GOLF and VAW-11, Detachment GOLF.

After a strenuous period of readiness inspections in mid-Pacific, ORISKANY visited Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands, Hong Kong, Beppu and Iwakuni, Japan. The ship left Iwakuni earlier than scheduled the morning of October 31, 1963 and proceeded rapidly to an area off the coast of South Vietnam, when word was received of the coup d'etat taking place in Saigon, the turbulent capitol of that country.

Following the Vietnam coup ORISKANY returned to Japan in time for a scheduled 18-day upkeep period at Yokosuka. While in Yokosuka crewmembers entertained children from the ORISKANY Home, an orphanage in the Shuzucko Province of Japan. The children received gifts from the men, and on behalf of the crew Captain Trum presented the orphanage with a check for \$500.

Leaving Yokosuka, the ship proceeded Southwest to visit the port of Sasebo on the island of Kyushu, Japan. Following the Sasebo visit officers and men of ORISKANY spent Christmas 1963 at sea.

ORISKANY's basketball team, organized at the beginning of the cruise, spent the holidays in Yokosuka participating with 21 ships in the 8th Annual Seventh Fleet Holiday Tournament. The tournament was played December 26, 27 and 28, and the Big "O" team returned to the ship December 30th bearing the title of Seventh Fleet Champions and the handsome first place trophy after defeating runner-up USS HECTOR 78-70.

On December 31st it is reported that during the year 1963 ORISKANY recorded 12,481 arrested landings and steamed 65,439 nautical miles.

USS ORISKANY (CVA-34)  
CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SHIP'S HISTORY - 1964

New Year's Day 1964 saw ORISKANY in Sasebo, Japan. While there, the ship entertained a group of distinguished Japanese visitors, including VADM Masao Yamashita, JMSDF, and several leaders of Sasebo City and its industries. During a short at-sea period, with the guests embarked, the crew demonstrated some of ORISKANY's and the Navy's capabilities.

Following the Sasebo visit, ORISKANY re-visited the ports of Hong Kong, Yokosuka and Subic Bay. Training continued as usual, with air operations, underway replenishments, and weapons training exercises. In this interval, a number of new faces were added to ORISKANY's crew in the wake of transfers and new job assignments. Among some of the changes were: Executive Officer, Air Officer, Gunnery Officer and the Commander of the ship's Carrier Air Wing.

On February 12, ORISKANY was able to assist one of her replenishment ships, the USS PYRO, while operating in the South China Sea. Shortly before midnight, a man was received by highline, and taken immediately to the dispensary where ORISKANY surgeons removed his appendix. Success of the operation was clearly evident the next morning when the young man expressed the wish to return immediately to his own ship so that he would not miss her visit to Hong Kong.

ORISKANY arrived in her homeport of San Diego on March 10, 1964. On March 17, Captain William H. House relieved Captain Herman J. Trum as Commanding Officer.

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For the month following her homecoming, ORISKANY went through a leave and upkeep period, prior to departing for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, for a four month overhaul.

ORISKANY left Bremerton on August 24, complete with a new electronics set-up, a new weapons loading system, a new paint job inside and out, and many other new parts and repairs. During the week long trip to San Diego, drills were held to whip the crew back into combat readiness, and to acquaint new men on the ship with their battle stations.

On September 9, ORISKANY was the scene of a presentation ceremony, when Under-Secretary of the Navy Paul B. Fay came aboard to present the Distinguished Service Medal to Vice Admiral Paul D. Stroop, Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific. Admiral Stroop received the medal for his work in uniting the Bureaus of Ordnance and Aeronautics to form the Bureau of Weapons. Officers and men of ORISKANY stood in flight deck parade as the presentation was being made.

Monday, September 14, saw ORISKANY put to sea once again to begin three weeks of Underway Refresher Training. At the end of this period, the ship was inhabited by a well trained, well organized crew, able to handle any emergency.

A well-earned in-port period followed the Underway Refresher Training, then it was back to sea for carrier qualifications for ORISKANY's Carrier Air Wing SIXTEEN. During this period, ORISKANY's flight deck was used to test the E2A Hawkeye, the Navy's newest airborne early warning aircraft.

In the months that followed, ORISKANY played host to a number of important visitors. On October 7, fourteen foreign officers attending the Amphibious Warfare School at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California, came aboard for an orientation visit. The officers represented the Armies, Navies, and Marine Corps of eight countries.

On October 13, 80 members of the Brazilian National War College spent a day at sea aboard ORISKANY, observing air operations and getting a first hand look at an operating attack aircraft carrier. Included in the group was Admiral Luis Teixeira Martini, Commandant of the College.

On October 16, the ship added another first to its long list of same. Major J. A. (Al) Johnson, U.S. Army, piloted a Navy A4C jet aircraft through a series of arrested landings and catapult launchings. It is believed that this was the first time an Army pilot has operated from ORISKANY's flight deck since her commissioning in 1950, and possibly the first time an Army pilot has flown to and from an American aircraft carrier in the past decade.

The following month, ORISKANY was cast in the role of rescuer for two successive days. On November 17, a distress call was received from a downed helicopter. During anti-submarine warfare exercises, the helo had developed engine trouble and was forced to land on the water. When ORISKANY arrived on the scene, the helo, very undramatically, lifted out of the water and landed on the flight deck. The aircraft belonged to NAAS Ream Field-based Helicopter Squadron EIGHT.

The second rescue happened the next night when the ship went to the aid of a suspected appendicitis victim aboard the USS COMSTOCK. COMSTOCK has no operating facilities, so the man, John S. Hegyes, Disbursing Clerk Seaman, was transferred to ORISKANY via helicopter. Hegyes was kept in ORISKANY's sick bay for observation.

On December 11, 100 members of Los Angeles Rotary Club #5 and the California Wing of the Air Force Association spent a day at sea aboard ORISKANY. The group viewed flight operations and received a general orientation tour of the ship.

That evening ORISKANY docked at NAS North Island, and the guests disembarked. The mooring also marked the beginning of ORISKANY's Christmas leave period.